

Simpitan Expedition.

(May 17-29, 1904.)

May 17, 1904. — Left Cabacsalan Island (sometimes called Isabella), in the Rio Grande of Mindanao on the steam launch Cheyenne to cross Lake Liguasan. Soundings 9½, 5½, 7 feet, etc. Floating grass islands moving all over the lake. Lotus lily's covering large areas in places. At last we found plenty of open water. Fish were jumping out. Stuck in the mud.

Drop anchor. Pulling up anchor very difficult and liberates suffocating quantities of marsh gas. Entering a larger area of ~~water~~ space of open water we find 2 very tame Pelicans. The lake is now dotted and streaked with open water. Very hot, even under the awning. Several Moro signal fires burning on the shore. I have always observed numerous fires whenever approaching hostile Moros, even when traversing friendly country. We are floating, with no open channel ahead. Hot! It is now dusk. I have been aboard the launch all day watching birds I could not get at. The General's launch breaks down, and ours tows them in to Cabacsalan. Slept on the Sabah.

May 18, 1904. — General Wood's order is issued. I assigned personnel of medical department. Took small Moro visita, 3 Moro

Simpitan Expedition.

2

May 18 paddlers, and 1 Hospital Corps soldier. Went out on Lake Liguasan and shot some birds. The solar heat coagulated the albumen in the muscles of two of the birds I shot and left exposed on the bottom of the barota ~~luring~~ which turned the meat white as if cooked. The floating islands are composed mainly of two species of grass, and the cogon also grows wherever the banks become locally solid. There are an abundance of water cabbages and entangling vines of, perhaps, a species of buckbean (*Specium* preserved) bearing fleshy leaves and white flowers. Locally cowrol = *valus*, *senuna*, sedge, and *Polygonum* are abundant. *Senuna* is the only shrub. Returned to the Sabah at Lebaesalon Island, at 1 P.M. In the afternoon I walked about the island in company with Captain Darrall, and Dr. Munson of the Navy.

May 19, 1904. — Slept well under mosquito bar aboard the Cheyenne on Lake Liguasan. Transferred to small Moro vinta with my luggage, some rations, 4 garrisons and 2 artillery soldiers.

Crossed Lake Liguasan to Buluan on the upper part of the Buluan River. We slept in the boats in learned to-day that from Buluan there is a good trail to the Malala Malala River, thence up the Malala River to divide (20 miles), then

Simpilan Expedition.

3

(May 19, 1904)

over the divide and down a stream to Santa Cruz on the Gulf of Davao (25 miles). Total distance, 53 miles. [Bilanes tribe. Captain McCoy afterwards made this journey in company with Bishop Brent; and at a still later date Capt McCoy crossed this divide from the Santa Cruz side and killed Datto Ali. In this manner the above information, noted by me, came to the accomplishment of an important result.

a patch of lotus where there were no mosquitoes, as mosquitoes dislike the lotus. There were myriads of mosquitoes above and below this spot. Lake Liguasan contains many open stretches of water, a number of which were crossed. In some places water cabbages had floated against masses of the lotus, which latter are rooted deeply in the mud of the lake bottom. These beds of vegetation are the home of myriads of birds.

May 20, 1904. — The Buluan River is becoming a swift and narrow stream, up which we proceed a mile or two and camp ~~and camp~~ among some coconut and other trees. The Infantry column under Captain Devore reached this camp at 5 o'clock P. M., yesterday. There

Simpulan Expedition.

are series of bran vine about this place. 4
May 21, 1904. Left Buluan early in the morning in a large Moro vinta for a trip, which lasted 3 hours, up the Buluan River to the Lake Buluan and returning. River water very sulphurous. On the margin were patches of tule rush, lotus, Polygonum, Black-bean, white water lily, senna, sedge, coarse clump fern. Moros eat the petiole of the lotus—the tender base—as well as the nuts which taste like chestnuts. Clumps of tall cane-grass. Plume-like ferns in beds along the banks. Many species of grass. Of Polygonum I see several species. Elephant-ear. Some Moro houses, with banana and coconut trees. Spent the rest of the day in our pretty camp at Buluan. Two Infantry companies march, by trail, in $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Measured a crocodile (11 feet) that a soldier had shot.

May 22, 1904.—The troops remained in camp at Buluan. Set out in vintas up the Buluan River to Lake Buluan. On reaching the lake it was commonly noted that ^{heads of} great Crocodiles would rise gently to the surface and lie perfectly still. This lake fairly swarms with crocodiles. General Wood sounded and gave me mud from the lake bottom which contained many small shells that I preserved. There are no large

(May 22, 1904.) Simpitan Expedition.

5

native villages on Lake Buluan; but there is a large population distributed around the lake margin in scattered houses. We met some of Enoch's people moving away in boats because they were afraid of Ali's men. Their boats were laden with food as they are going to market.

May 23, 1904. — Still at Buluan. The two boats are tardy in arriving with the rations. A number of cargadores disappear by desertion. Left Buluan at noon and found the trail leading to Simpitan through cogonals. Streams were bordered by forest trees. Deer and hogs abundant. The Molala River was reached about 3 P.M. It is a small stream, with well-wooded banks, flowing through a prairie of cogon grass. Camp was made at that point.

May 24, 1904. — Marched at daybreak. Three miles brought us to a stream called Numbawata, along which grew heavy timber. Another mile brought us to a stream called Dim-my-gall-ee, and a few more miles brought us to Simpitan, where a fight had occurred some time previously, in which both the ~~two~~ Americans and Moros under Datto Ali met with losses. Ali's camp

6

(May 24, 1904.) Simpitan Expedition.
was found to be deserted, he having vanished
to parts unknown with all his followers.
Two scouting expeditions were sent out to
try to locate his trail; but it is probable that
his men fired the greater part of their ammu-
nition and partly dispersed, Ali and his
personal following having perhaps moved in
boats through esteros and the lakes.

May 25, 1904. — Marched from Simpitan at
2 P.M. to a little grass strip between two rivers,
near the Malala River, and camped for ^{the} night.

May 26, 1904. — Broke camp at early daybreak
and marched to Buluan. The distance from
Simpitan to Buluan is probably a little less
than 20 miles (15-20).

May 27, 1904. — Left Buluan at 5 A.M. in
vintas, moving down stream towards Lake
Liquasan. A troop of monkeys was not
an uncommon sight. A halt was made
at Pandog, on the Buluan River, and a
meal prepared. Troops under command of
Captain Devore marched from Pandog to
Buteig Hill, and captured some 6 Moros,
wounded old Datto-Peterboro, Ali's main

(May 27, 1904.) Simpitan Expedition.
force having left Bulig Hill. Devore found much
of the loot taken by the Moros from Captain
Harper's command at Simpitan, and
identified Lieutenant Woodruff's compass, etc.
Although Devore's men had been fired upon
by the Moros at Bulig Hill, none ~~were~~ ^{was} hurt,
but the troops engaged were very tired on
returning to the boats. Heavy thunder storm
is coming up. Resumed our journey down the
Bulacan River at 4 P.M., crossed Lake Liguasan,
and arrived aboard the Sabah ~~at~~ lying in the
Rio Grande at Cabacsalan Island at 3 A.M.

Enjoyed a bath and comfortable cot with
mosquito netting around me. Aboard the
Sabah off Cabacsalan Island until 2 P.M.,
May 28, 1904, when we moved down the Rio Grande
to Reina Regente, after ^{a very good and enjoyable luncheon} ~~detaining~~ aboard the Samar
with Captain Miller, U.S. Navy. Spent the greater
part of the night at Piang's place on the
Rio Grande.

May 29, 1904. — At daybreak the Sabah,
in descending the Rio Grande ran upon a sandbar,
and three ~~other~~ other steamers were required to pull
us off. Starting again at 12 m. we steamed down
the Rio Grande, occasionally touching bottom, proceeding
to Zamboanga, arriving May 31, 1904.